

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.850
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

FUNDS FOR PADDY PROCUREMENT IN WEST BENGAL

850 SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds/dues for paddy procurement under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have been withheld from disbursal to the State of West Bengal between the period 2021 to October 2024; and

(b) if so, the total amount withheld and the reason therefor?

A N S W E R
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRIMATI NIMUBEN JAYANTIBHAI BAMBHANIYA)

(a)to (b): Payment of admissible amount to States for central Pool procurement of food grains is made by Food Corporation of India (FCI) on the basis of the claims made by State Governments and their agencies as per the Cost Sheet, which includes Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the food grains and other incidentals. Further, provisional food subsidy is released to States that have opted for Decentralized Procurement (DCP) mode, including West Bengal, on the basis of their quarterly food subsidy claims, which is an ongoing and continuous process. The responsibility of procurement of paddy and making payment of MSP to the farmers rests with the State Government. These claims are processed keeping in view the opening and closing balance of stocks, procurement, allocation and distribution of food grains under various Central schemes, Food Corporation of India's reconciliation, utilization certificates received, economic cost of food grains etc. Despite pendency of compliance to certain guidelines by the State, Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Government of India has been continuously re-imbursing the admissible amount of food subsidy to the Government of West Bengal against their claims. Rs.6,162.66 Crore, Rs.7,115.17 Crore, Rs.226.32 Crore and Rs.1,535.42 Crore have been re-imbursed to the State Government during the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till October 2024) respectively.
